

## THE THREE DAYS' BATTLES.

### UNOFFICIAL DETAILS.

#### THE ENEMY DEFEATED, AND HIS DEAD AND WOUNDED LEFT ON THE FIELD.

#### ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND PRISONERS TAKEN.

Several of the correspondents of the New York press with the Army of the Potomac have furnished accounts, more or less at large, of the engagements on Wednesday and Thursday last. Though all of them are highly interesting, we select the following account from the pen of Mr. G. W. Hooper as being the fullest and most particular in its statements. His letters are dated "In the Field," near Gettysburg, on the nights of the 1st and 2d instant.

#### THE BATTLE OF WEDNESDAY.

Gen. Buford's cavalry had previously driven the rebels to the west of Gettysburg, beyond the seminary, and between nine and ten o'clock A. M. the rebels gave his pickets a pretty sharp brush and drove them in.

Gen. Reynolds, with the First Corps, was on the road from Emmetsburg to Gettysburg, en route to the latter place, which the road approaches through the scene of the conflict.

#### BEGINNING OF THE FIGHT.

General Reynolds at once threw forward the first division, under Gen. Wadsworth, which began to drive the enemy from the start. Very soon afterwards the second division of the same corps went on the right of the first division, the third division on the left of the first, and the whole line began to advance.

Nearly west of the town, just in the outskirts, near the seminary, is a large brick edifice. Southward from this runs a piece of woods, and the seminary stands on a ridge which slopes to the west into a little open valley of ploughed fields and meadows, rich with grass and grain. Beyond the valley is a ridge of higher land, thickly wooded. The valley runs in a southeasterly direction, and at its lower extremity is a large farmhouse, near which the Eighth Illinois Cavalry was drawn up in the field, and formed our extreme left. Several farmhouses dotted this same rich little valley.

Across this valley Gen. Reynolds' line advanced somewhat hastily, almost before it was well formed, and in that condition did not go far until against it a heavy force of the rebel infantry was thrown, and Gen. Reynolds was in turn driven. But his troops retired step by step, and in excellent order.

#### CAPTURE OF A SMALL REBEL BRIGADE.

Forward with the utmost enthusiasm pressed the rebel line, eager now to turn Reynolds' retirement into a rout. Some of the rebels had too much energy and got too far; for, while they pressed too closely on the right of the center division, the left of the same division was suddenly swept around, and then encircled in the hands of our men. An entire rebel brigade under Gen. Archer, Gen. Archer and his whole staff were taken. About fifteen hundred of the enemy's men thus fell into our hands, and went to the rear. Small regiments were the order in this brigade. The regiments which made this capture were the Sixth Wisconsin, the Brooklyn Fourteenth, and the Ninety-fifth New York.

#### ANOTHER ADVANCE AND SEVERE FIGHTING.

Though the First Corps still continued to retire, the rebel advance was broken and this time, and Gen. Reynolds now prepared to go forward in earnest, apparently forgetting that he had at first only gone in to support cavalry, and was likely to bring on a general engagement with only one corps. Formed as before, his line went forward and drove the enemy across the valley and over the ridge at the further side; but it was at great expense to us, as the fire with which they received our forces was terribly severe. From the hill the line of skirmishers was thrown out some distance, and Gen. Reynolds went out to the line to reconnoitre, when he was hit by a musket ball in the head and instantly killed.

#### ARRIVAL OF THE ELEVENTH CORPS.

In rather less than an hour after the fight began the Eleventh Corps came up the same road by which the First had approached, and Gen. Howard at once assumed command of the whole field, while Gen. Schurz assumed command of the Eleventh Corps. Gen. Doubleday had already assumed command of the First Corps.

Across the north side of the town runs a creek, on which shortly after noon it was reported the rebels were massing troops, apparently to take the First Corps in its rear. To guard against an advance from that direction, Gen. Howard sent forward the first and third divisions of the Eleventh Corps, which moved across the rear of the First Corps and through the town, and took up position with the first division on the right. Gen. Steinwehr's division—the second—was held as a reserve.

Meantime two or three of our batteries held a sharp parley with the rebel batteries posted on the hills that encircle the town, and their balls overhauled our batteries somewhat and threw several shot in among the solid people of Gettysburg. Whether it frightened them or not I can hardly say.

#### REFULSE OF THE REBELS.

At about half-past two o'clock, while the batteries exchanged a heavy fire and some sharp musketry woke up the echoes on the right, the rebels advanced in heavy force against the First Corps, which slowly retreated from the hills beyond the valley to high ground near the seminary, where it prepared to make all the resistance it was capable of. It was reinforced there by some dismounted dragoons, and fought in the open field; for, though some rail fences were thrown down across the front of our line, they afforded no cover. From the woods beyond the farmhouses, and across the open space, a rebel force of perhaps three large brigades advanced bandolier in line of battle, while the rebel batteries near the general centre shelled our position hotly to cover the advance.

On came the line, right up within short range of our position, when it was opened upon with a fire so sharp and well served as to stagger and then completely repulse it. Backward went the line that came forward in such good order, a mere mass of stragglers, each of whom made the best of his way across the plain.

While the musketry was very hot in front of General Doubleday, a party of about one hundred rebels stole through the woods well up on Doubleday's left flank, and fired a large bomb, one of those immense magazines of breadstuffs that in Pennsylvania so overpeer the comparatively small farmhouses. An immense black column of smoke soon began to ascend from the roof, breaking out presently into a white, sulphurous cloud, and then into a fierce red blaze. Under cover of this fire the rebel skirmishers exchanged numerous shots with a line of skirmishers from the cavalry on our extreme left.

#### SECOND REFULSE OF THE REBELS.

Repulsed, but not vanquished, the rebel line was reformed and reinforced; and now, for a second time, came on a force nearly twice as great as at first. Once more, also, the batteries threw shells, answered by our batteries on the left, and also by batteries of ours on the extreme right, which at this time threw shell at the position on the enemy's centre. Once more the packed, rapid rattle of our fire broke out, and once more the rebel line was broken and went to the right about in rout.

#### ANOTHER ONSET—OUR FORCES FALL BACK.

There is a mysterious fatality connected with the third time; and so, after a lull and period of comparative quiet of twenty minutes, onward for a third time came the rebels, quite as orderly as before, the line of skirmishers firing as they came on. In so great force was this line that it completely overlapped the line of the First Corps on both flanks. Two brigades on the right were quite out of ammunition, and the order was given to retreat on the town; and our boys accordingly retreated in good order, while the rebels rushed forward with yells to our position.

On came the enemy's fourth line, further to the right of

the third, in good order, skirmishers ahead, until the position of the army was reached, when they came forward with a rush, and occupied a hill we had not deemed it worth while to hold after the other was taken. On also came another line in support behind this, and our cavalry on the extreme left began to retire.

#### THE FIELD AFTER THE BATTLE.

At this moment the field presented a true war picture. Across the fields to the right came the rebel line, with colors that fluttered in the pleasant breeze; in the center were two farmhouses, outhouses, and barns in flames, and on the left the column of cavalry in retreat, while beyond all the rays of the sun beat down through the showery clouds and gilded every object with a peculiarly golden light, and over the heavens to the eastward stretched a magnificent rainbow.

The new position of the Third Corps was at a line of stone wall southwest of the town, along the slope of a hill on which is a cemetery. When the First Corps retired to the town the left of the Eleventh was uncovered, and a heavy advance completely on its right flank at the same time compelled it to retire. It affords me pleasure to say that this corps is reported to have fought well and lost many men. As I was on our extreme left I did not see the fight of the Eleventh Corps.

After our retirement on the town the rebel advance was not pressed further. And so ended a battle that was fought in the most rash manner, yet which was well fought against a largely superior force, and gotten out at last much better than we could have expected.

The rebel force fought by us was the corps of Gen. Ewell and that of A. P. Hill. South of the town is a high hill, on which is a cemetery, and this became the headquarters. Its slope to the west was held by the First Corps, and a continuation of hills from it toward the east was held by the Eleventh, while the Twelfth Corps was placed so as to hold both flanks, the first division, under Gen. Williams, being on the extreme right, and the second division, under Gen. Geary, on the extreme left. The Third Corps, which came on the field just at nightfall, was massed in the center, ready to be used whenever occasion might require. Gen. Slocum, of the Twelfth Corps, had assumed the command upon our arrival.

#### SOME OF OUR LOSSES.

Major Gen. Reynolds was placing his men when he was fatally wounded, and urging them on to the support of Gen. Buford. He cried out in his enthusiasm: "For God's sake! forward, my brave boys—forward!" And forward they went—that iron brigade of old Col. Meredith which has never failed since the war began. Just then Gen. Reynolds received his fatal wound, and falling over upon Capt. Wilcox, his aid, who was riding beside him, he exclaimed, "Good God, Wilcox, I am killed!" Capt. Wilcox had his horse shot under him at about the same time, and was severely bruised by the fall.

Brig. Gen. Meredith was badly bruised by the fall of his horse, which was killed. His son, Lieut. Meredith, was wounded in the leg by a shell. Lieut. Woodward, aid-de-camp to Gen. Meredith, was wounded by a musket ball in the right arm. Gen. Meredith's brigade went into the fight 1,830 strong, and came out with only 618. Among the killed, wounded, and missing are sixty-seven officers.

The light brigades of Tennessee and Mississippi, under Gen. Archer, were captured by Gen. Meredith's brigade. The Twenty-eighth Mississippi, Col. Root, was surrendered to Col. Dawes, of the Sixth Wisconsin.

The second division of the First Corps, commanded by Gen. Robinson, suffered badly. The first brigade was commanded by Brig. Gen. Paul, who was killed, when Col. Leonard, of the Thirtieth Massachusetts, assumed command, but was shortly wounded, and the command devolved upon Col. Robert, of the Ninety-fourth New York. Gen. Baxter, of the second brigade, lost nearly all his staff in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Gen. Robinson, commanding this division, lost most of his staff. He took 2,500 officers and men into the fight and can report only eight hundred and ninety-six left. They captured Gen. Evans, from ten to fifteen hundred prisoners, and three flags. Lieut. Thomas, of Gen. Baxter's staff, was killed.

#### THE NEW POSITION AT GETTYSBURG.

Gen. Reynolds, it seems more and more clear, fought rashly on Wednesday, and very probably against the wishes of the commander of the army; yet his battle, which lost us many men, gave us full information of the whereabouts of the enemy's main body, and committed the enemy to the position north of Gettysburg, or perhaps led him to believe that we had a greater force in his front than we had, and so made him fear to make any such considerable movement as would be necessary to take up a new position in presence of this army. At Gettysburg all the good roads in this part of the country converge. All the other roads, except those that meet here, are mere byways for the use of the neighborhood, narrow and soon cut up, and thus rendered unfit for the movement of an army. Northward from Gettysburg run roads to Harrisburg, and southward from it run three good roads, the principal and best of which is the Baltimore turnpike. For any movement towards its own border, therefore, the possession of these roads which run to the south was necessary to the Southern army, and these roads once in our possession the position of the Southern army became critical; for should Lee attempt to retire by any other roads than these we should have a shorter line to any point on his route, and could consequently hit him wherever we might choose; while, if he should fight us without these roads and win, he would win but little more than a way to get out, and if he should be beaten his defeat would be very disastrous.

#### PREPARATIONS BY GEN. MEADE.

Gen. Meade (who arrived in the night of Wednesday) began from the first to mass his forces in such a manner as would enable him to hold these roads to the best advantage. South of the town the country is generally hilly; but there are three hills that deserve especial mention, as they form the points on which our line is drawn—Cemetery Hill, in the southern edge of the town; a nameless hill half a mile to the east of Cemetery Hill, and Sugar Loaf Hill, directly south of Cemetery Hill and about two miles distant from it. Between Cemetery Hill and Sugar Loaf Hill the country is open and level, and our men in that position faced directly west from Cemetery Hill to the nameless one; we faced to the north, and between the latter and Sugar Loaf Hill you looked to the southeast.

Our position was therefore a somewhat irregular triangle, and its peculiarity was that, practically, it had no flanks; for in case of necessity the line could have swept around so that the extreme right and left would meet on the turnpike. Our line from Cemetery Hill to the right was a rocky ridge, very thickly wooded; and here, during the early part of the day, some defenses were constructed under the direction of Gen. Williams and Geary, of the Twelfth Corps, which was posted at this place. Though many of those who helped to construct these defenses thought that they would, like countless others, amount to very little when the fight came, they proved eventually to be of the utmost value.

#### POSITIONS OF OUR FORCES.

Gen. Steinwehr occupied Cemetery Hill, which commands the town, while the fight raged on Wednesday, and at the close of that day's battle the remnants of the First and Eleventh Corps were posted there and a little down the line to the right and left, and there they remained on Thursday at the commencement of the second battle. On the open country to our left lay the Second and Third Corps, and the Fifth was so massed as to fill up the third line. The Sixth was put near to the Fifth when it came up.

On Cemetery Hill we had several batteries, and, indeed, every point that could possibly command a fire was crowned with a battery; for, in addition to the guns regularly attached to the corps, we had up the reserve artillery. Throughout the wide extent of the fields enclosed within our lines ambulances and ammunition trains were packed everywhere, and it proved that they were all under fire on Thursday, for the field of fire of the rebel guns opposite our right met that of the rebel guns opposite our left in this enclosed space, and shells exploded every where, and round shot hurtled through the air in every direction.

#### THE BATTLE OF THURSDAY.

After what had taken place on Wednesday, and with the knowledge of the force that had come up, there was good reason to believe, and all in camp did believe, that Thursday would be ushered in with the noise of battle.

Day broke in quiet, however, and breakfast was taken at ease. Now and then there were little disputes between the enemy's pickets and ours in the streets of the town, for we held part and they part, and sometimes a gun in one of our batteries would send an experimental shell towards the enemy's lines. The enemy through all this kept marvellously shy with his artillery, and did not fire a shot, which it was thought indicated that heavy ammunition was scarce in the rebel camp.

During all the earlier part of the day very little was known in respect to the enemy's movements, but it was thought to be clearly made out that he was massing his forces on our extreme right. In view of this additional preparation was made to meet whatever might come in that direction. But there were some who thought that the movements of the enemy towards our right were made only for show and to distract attention from more important points; for such was the nature of the country that, had the enemy really wished to mass his forces there, he could have done it without making a man visible.

#### AN ARTILLERY FIGHT.

All day more or less picket firing had taken place on our left, and it became pretty sharp between two and three P. M. Some movements were in progress behind this fire, and to develop these Gen. Sickles was ordered to advance with the whole Third Corps. This advance brought on the general engagement.

Under cover of a fire from the eight brass pieces in battery on the open field, the corps went forward in line of battle, corps and division and brigade colors all in the air, and the men in excellent spirits. Then the enemy's artillery, so long silent, began on our left at the pieces in the field. In turn our pieces on Cemetery Hill opened on those of the enemy in the field; other batteries of the enemy nearer our centre opened on those on Cemetery Hill, and so it went around until our guns on the northern face of the hill engaged the enemy's batteries two miles across the country, on our right. The whole valley in which Gettysburg lies was one immense network, with the trace of shells from battery to battery.

Such a concentration of fire on our position naturally necessitated some movement of ambulances and ammunition wagons, and in ten minutes after this extensive duty began the Baltimore turnpike was lined with vehicles in motion towards safer places. All sorts of shakel fellows also improved this opportunity to effect a slight "skedaddle," and soon the column of men in motion towards the rear became more considerable than the column of vehicles. When men once begin to go each additional shell that explodes in the air above them makes them want to go faster, and, owing to this peculiar constitution of the human animal, a stampede down the Baltimore road was imminent, when a line of men was established and every fellow disposed to retire was forced to front.

By this shelling the Cemetery Hill was cleared. All day it had been occupied by lines of men, and there groups of officers gathered together, inspected the position, and canvassed the possibilities. Many men sat upon the graves, leaned against the tombstones, and recounted their various misadventures. Orderlies came and went incessantly, for there Gen. Howard and Steinwehr had their headquarters. Altogether the city of the dead was a very lively place, but very soon after the artillery fire became warm, it was deserted by all but the Generals whose headquarters were there, and the men necessary to hold the place.

#### THE INFANTRY ENGAGED.

Meantime the musketry fire on our left seemed to become every moment more and more fierce. Already the Third Corps had once been driven in disorder from ground it had won, but, rallied by Gen. Sickles in person, it had again gone forward, and now held its place with desperate tenacity against a very heavy force, for this advance on our left had developed that the enemy's forces were in reality massed here; and when the Third Corps took the initiative, it only precipitated an attempt on the part of the enemy which might otherwise have come when we were not so well prepared to receive it.

Hard pressed on its whole line, the Third Corps called for support, and at five P. M. the Fifth Corps was marched from its position on the Baltimore turnpike, by a little cross road, right across to the little hill just north of Sugar Loaf Hill, and went into action on the left of the Third Corps. This advance developed still further the intention of the enemy, which was to get around our left flank, and so to get at the Emmetsburg road, and perhaps at our ammunition wagons near it. As the division of regulars and Griffith's division of the Fifth Corps went forward, and before the fire had opened on their front, some fire swept from their left down the line, and the right brigade of the division of regulars was wheeled so as to face that way. No sooner had it done so than the fire in front opened, which then came in the rear of the right brigade, and threw it into some confusion; but it was rallied and went on again, and the line of the two divisions drove the enemy before it until it had taken the position previously occupied by one of the enemy's batteries.

Here a fire was concentrated on these two divisions from batteries further to the rear, and at the same time the enemy was reported on their left. At once the line was ordered to retire, and went back steadily to the crest of the hill. This hill was not particularly precipitous, but on the front it was very rough and rocky, and the crest was covered with a growth of scrub oaks.

#### DISTASTFUL REFULSE OF THE ENEMY.

It was half an hour before sunset, and now came the first great attempt with which the rebels usually endeavor to close up great engagements—the attempt which certainly has in the larger number of instances been crowned with success. Here, however, it met a different fate. Two divisions, which proved to be Anderson's and McLaws', of Longstreet's corps, were formed for this great attempt, and came forward in their usual magnificent style. They had difficult ground to come over, but on they came, over rocks and through the low wood, until within a fair distance, when they made a rush with all possible yells roared out in one. They did not keep their line very even, but they were scarcely less impetuous as a mass than they would have been in line. They killed men on the crest of the hill, over the crest, and men were even driven well down on the other side; but these rallied on those that held their places, and bullets were poured into the rebel mass by volleys. Checked, broken, beaten back by this one Titanic effort of the Fifth Corps, the attacking column was scattered down the hill, and the battle was over on the left, with the enemy completely beaten.

#### A NIGHT ATTACK AND REFULSE.

In twenty minutes after the heavy fight was over on our left, the last vestige of daylight was gone, and the moon was so much enveloped in clouds that it was scarcely possibly to see at all. Just in this impenetrable darkness the fire of pickets began across on our right, and in a little while swelled into a heavy continuous fire. This was at the spot where the Twelfth Corps had been placed early in the day, but when the battle became doubtful on our left all of the Twelfth Corps but one brigade had been sent over there. The brigade thus left was the Third, of Gen. Geary's division, made up of five New York regiments—the Sixtieth, Seventy-eighth, One Hundred and Second, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh, and One Hundred and Forty-ninth, and was commanded by Brig. Gen. George S. Greene. Though the force was so slight the command was in worthy hands, and thus our right brigade was enabled to hold a line which had previously been occupied by a corps. Gen. Wadsworth sent down a few men from the First Corps, and Col. David Ireland, of the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh New York, gathered together some loose men on the road, and compelled them to take their places behind the field works against Gen. Greene's position. The enemy advanced in two lines. Our men held their places well, and repulsed at this point four charges, when the enemy gave up all further efforts. Though I recount Gen. Greene's victory thus briefly, the fact on his front was continuous for thirty minutes.

For seven hours without cessation the Army of the Potomac has been tried by the fire. It has suffered terribly, but has beaten the enemy in the hardest fight it has yet seen.

#### ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Mr. M. L. CROUSE, another New York correspondent, thus graphically describes the battle of Thursday: "At about 4½ o'clock P. M., the enemy sent a shot, which was answered by a salvo of artillery, his first shells falling un-

comfortably near Gen. Meade's headquarters. From this hour forth to 8½ o'clock, occurred by all odds the most sanguinary engagement yet chronicled in the annals of the war, considering its short duration.

The artillery attack, which was made by the enemy on the left and centre, was rapidly followed by the advance of his infantry. The Third Corps received the attack with great coolness. The rebels at once made for our flank, and kept moving heavy columns in that direction. This necessitated support, which was quickly given by the Fifth Corps—the division of Gen. Barnes being sent to the right, and that of Gen. Ayres, regulars, to the left, with Gen. Crawford in reserve.

The battle now became perfectly fearful. The armies engaged each other at very short range, and for three long hours the war of musketry was incessant. I have heard more noise, louder crashes, in other battles, but I never saw or heard of such desperate, tenacious fighting as took place in this flank. The enemy would often bring up suddenly a heavy column of men, and force our line back, only to be in turn forced back by our own line of glittering steel.

Our gallant columns covered themselves with glory over and over again. They fought a superior force in numbers. The dispositions of the enemy were very rapid, for look where you would on that field a body of rebels would be advancing. Our dispositions were equally rapid, and the enemy found more than their equal in such gallant veterans as Sickles and Birney and Humphreys. At half-past six Gen. Sickles was struck in the right leg by a piece of shell, and borne from the field. The injury was so great that amputation became necessary, and it was performed successfully.

The struggle grew hotter and hotter. The Second Corps was called on for aid, and though its own position was strongly threatened, yet the first division, formerly Gen. Hancock's, flung themselves into the fight with desperation, and after a long and obstinate conflict the enemy slowly and sullenly gave way. In this last charge the brigade of Gen. Caldwell, Second Corps, and that of Col. Switzer, from the Fifth Corps, won great honors. The charges made by our men deserve mention, but want of time forbids.

The battle lasted till fully 8½ o'clock, when the enemy fell back to his old position, and left our veterans the unsung victors of that field. Our pickets were thrown out, and our lines covered most of the field, including a great many of the enemy's dead and wounded. I visited some portions of the line by moonlight, and can bear personal witness to the terrible ferocity of the battle. In front of some of our brigades, who had good protection from stone walls or fences, the rebel dead lay piled in lines like wirewires of hay.

A great and magnificent feature of this fight is the splendid use of artillery. Though our line of battle was only a mile and a half long, yet almost every battery belonging to the Army of the Potomac was more or less engaged. Every one of the reserve batteries was brought into action, the positions for use being numerous. The enemy also used artillery largely, but not to near so great an extent as we did. From this they suffered immensely, and specially on the left, where canister was largely used. I believe we lost no artillery, unless it was two or three dismounted pieces, though it was very wonderful we did not.

#### THE DECISIVE BATTLE OF FRIDAY.

All the various reports agree in stating that the battle of Friday was decisive in favor of the national arms. This attack, like those of the two preceding days, was commenced by Gen. Lee. The field of the conflict was on the south side of Gettysburg—most of the musketry fighting in the forenoon being within the woods, while the artillery was posted on eminences, from which the timber had been cut. The following account of this sanguinary engagement is from the reporter of the Associated Press, under date of the evening of the 3d instant:

The battle began at daylight in the morning, at which time the batteries of the enemy's right wing opened on our left, and shortly after those of his centre followed. After half an hour's cannonading, doing but little damage to us, the fire slackened and only occasional shots were exchanged.

Shortly afterwards the enemy's left, composed entirely of infantry and sharpshooters, made an attack on our right wing. So suddenly and impetuously was it accomplished that our skirmishers and front line were driven back from their entrenchments, but by the aid of the batteries in the rear, and the indomitable bravery of the Twelfth Corps, we regained the first position, and captured a considerable number of prisoners. Several hours of ominous silence followed the repulse.

#### A GREAT ARTILLERY FIGHT.

At one o'clock the enemy fired two shots, apparently as signals for the grandest artillery fight ever witnessed on this continent. It is estimated that before a moment elapsed eighty guns opened upon us. Our batteries returned the compliment with interest. The air seemed literally thick with iron, and for more than an hour it seemed impossible that man or beast could live through it. Strange to say, the enemy's accuracy of range exhibited on the two previous days was wanting on this occasion. Most of their shells exploded far in the rear of our front, and generally missed our batteries.

Under cover of this *feu d'artillerie* Lee advanced his columns of infantry from their cover, and made several desperate attempts to carry the line by assault, but each successive attempt was repulsed with terrible havoc to their ranks.

#### THE FINAL STRUGGLE—TERRIFIC SLAUGHTER.

After an hour's incessant cannonading the fire grew less intense for a brief period, but was again renewed for a short time with equal spirit. During this period some of our batteries, whose ammunition was expended and the men exhausted, ceased to fire, and on the approach of the reserve batteries withdrew to the rear. The enemy, only seeing the batteries withdrawn and mistaking this for a retreat, made a rapid infantry charge up the hill and attained a position in one line, cutting to pieces and almost annihilating the Maine infantry supports; but, before they had time to rejoice at their imaginary success, the fresh batteries poured in a deadly fire of canister and case shot. The infantry reserves on either flank of the gap charged them and added greatly to their destruction. They were completely surprised, and hundreds threw down their arms and asked for quarter. Nearly the entire brigade of Gen. Dick Garnett was surrounded, and Garnett himself, wounded, barely made his escape. Longstreet was reported mortally wounded and a prisoner. He is reported to have died an hour afterwards.

#### PRISONERS TAKEN—THEIR REPORTS.

About 4:30 P. M. the artillery of the enemy slackened, and had entirely ceased at five. The last shot which they fired was far beyond their original position, and the infantry columns had withdrawn to their covers.

We took upwards of three thousand prisoners. The enemy captured but few of any of our men. The rebel prisoners reported that Gen. A. P. Hill was killed outright upon the field, and that their officers suffered far greater casualties than in any previous engagement.

#### SOME OF OUR LOSSES IN OFFICERS.

So terrific was the fire of the enemy that the small house where Gen. Meade and staff were quartered was perforated by several shots. Many of the staff horses were killed around the house. Gen. Butterfield was struck in the breast, and it is feared internally injured, by a piece of shell which exploded in the building. Gen. Joseph Dickson, of the staff, had his left arm perforated by a flying fragment of a shell, and it seemed a miracle that no greater damage was done to life or limb. Several of our general officers were wounded in the engagement. Gen. Hancock was wounded in the leg; Gen. Gibbons, Warren, and Hunt, were wounded. In consequence of the excitement and difficulty in ascertaining their location, the names of many prominent officers reported as killed could not be ascertained by the reporter.

#### THE BRAVERY OF THE SOLDIERS.

Too much credit cannot be given to the men at our batteries, who for hours stood to their guns under a broiling sun and surrounded by the missiles of death, retiring only to give their positions to others when their canisters and limbers were exhausted of ammunition. The infantry engaged also nobly did their duty, and the one day to-day at

their hands received the greatest disaster ever administered by the Union forces.

#### GENERAL MEADE.

All officers award the highest honors to Major General Meade for the able generalship he has displayed, since he assumed command, and particularly for the coolness, decision, and energy of this memorable Third of July.

Last night, believing it to be his duty to the cause, and to learn how far he would be supported in the approaching conflict, he summoned his corps and division commanders for consultation.

#### CONGRATULATORY ORDER OF GEN. MEADE.

The correspondent of the Associated Press at the Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac forwards the following congratulatory order, issued by Gen. Meade on the Fourth of July:

#### GENERAL ORDER NO. 68.

The Commanding General, in behalf of the country, thanks the Army of the Potomac for the glorious result of the recent operations.

Our enemy, superior in numbers and flushed with the pride of a successful invasion, attempted to overcome or destroy this army. Utterly baffled and defeated, he has now withdrawn from the contest.

The privations and fatigues the army has endured, and the heroic courage and gallantry it has displayed, will be matters of history to be ever remembered.

Our task is not yet accomplished, and the Commanding General looks to the army for greater efforts to drive from our soil every vestige of the presence of the invader.

It is right and proper that we should on suitable occasions return our grateful thanks to the Almighty Disposer of Events that, in the goodness of His providence, he has thought fit to give victory to the cause of the just.

By command of Major General Meade: S. WILLIAMS, A. A. General.

#### GEN. FARNSWORTH KILLED.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, JULY 5. The rebel General Ponder is wounded. Generals Johnston and Kemper (rebels) are killed. Gen. Farnsworth, of our cavalry, is killed. The rebel losses are estimated at 30,000. Our troops are in excellent spirits. Gen. Butterfield's wound is more severe than supposed, but not serious at all. The rebels abandon their wounded and killed.

#### MOVEMENTS TO INTERCEPT THE ENEMY.

NEAR GETTYSBURG, JULY 5.—The enemy have retreated towards the Potomac. Their skirmishers were drawn in last night, and a small cavalry force, probably the rear guard, passed through Emmetsburg this morning about daylight.

Our troops have been engaged all day in burying the dead, relieving the wounded, and collecting arms, many thousands of which belonged to the rebels.

The rebel pontoon bridge at Dam No. 4 has been destroyed by our cavalry, almost unopposed, and the cavalry, at last advice, had gone up to Williamsport to destroy two bridges there.

Other preparations are in progress to intercept Lee's passage of the Potomac, and our army is already in motion. So much time, however, has elapsed since Lee commenced to withdraw from our front that his advance may have reached Williamsport to cross before we can prevent it.

Lee yesterday paroled about two thousand Union prisoners. They were received by Gen. Couch.

It is not true, as stated, that Longstreet was captured and died. Gen. Hunt, chief of artillery, was not wounded. Both of these reports were apparently well authenticated and freely believed.

#### MOVEMENTS OF GEN. COUCH.

HARRISBURG, JULY 6.—Gen. Couch has pushed forward all his effective force to co-operate and join with the Army of the Potomac, and is, by order of Gen. Meade, pushing the troops forward as rapidly as they are organized. The country may rest assured that he is doing all in his power to advance the interest of our cause. His advance is already in contact with the enemy, and siding in the glorious result.

The troops under Gen. Pierce, formerly Milroy's command, arrived yesterday at Chambersburg, and pushed on to Greencastle, where they captured five hundred prisoners, two wagons loaded with plunder, and three pieces of artillery. The prisoners were stragglers, making their way to the Potomac in company with wagon trains.

#### PURSUIT OF THE FLYING ENEMY.

BALTIMORE, JULY 7, P. M.—Advice from the army up to two o'clock P. M. on Sunday, July 6, state that General Meade's headquarters were at Cresagerstown last night, and were to be in Frederick to-day.

Gen. Meade has telegraphed that Lee's army is retreating in wild confusion.

Every available man in Baltimore and Washington is being hurried to Frederick to intercept Lee's flying and demoralized troops.

We learn that the rebel retreat is towards Williamsport, through Hagerstown, by several roads, and that Frederick and the South Mountain are held by a large Federal force. There is a probability of another battle at or near Antietam.

#### FLIGHT OF GEN. LEE'S ARMY.

LOSS OF PRISONERS, CANNON, WAGONS, &c.